

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Claims 1-12 (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A surface treated absorbent material comprising a superabsorbent material consisting essentially of a superabsorbent polymer consisting essentially of

- a) at least about 75% by weight of the superabsorbent polymer of an anionic polymer comprising functional groups selected from carboxyl groups, sulfonate groups, sulphate groups, sulfite groups, and phosphate groups; and
- b) an internal crosslinking agent based on the polymerizable unsaturated acid group containing monomer, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a degree of neutralization of greater than about 25%; wherein elements a) and b) are polymerized and prepared into superabsorbent polymer particles and further comprising the following surface additives to form surface treated superabsorbent polymer particles
  - i) from about 0.5% to about 5% by weight of surface crosslinking agent based on the superabsorbent polymer composition; and
  - ii) from about [0.5%] 0.63% to about 5% by weight of a non-cross linked cationic polymeric coating based on the superabsorbent polymer composition; wherein the superabsorbent material having a gel stiffness index of at least about 0.8.

14. (Original) A surface treated absorbent material as set forth in claim 13 wherein the surface treated absorbent material has a gel bed permeability (GBP) under load as determined by a Gel Bed Permeability Under Load Test of at least about  $200 \times 10^{-9} \text{ cm}^2$ .

15. (Original) A surface treated absorbent material as set forth in claim 14 wherein the surface treated absorbent material has a gel bed permeability (GBP) under load as determined by the Gel Bed Permeability Under Load Test of at least about  $400 \times 10^{-9} \text{ cm}^2$ .

16. (Original) A surface treated absorbent material as set forth in claim 13 wherein the superabsorbent material has a centrifuge retention capacity (CRC) as determined by a Centrifuge Retention Capacity Test of at least about 20 g/g.

17. (Original) A surface treated absorbent material as set forth in claim 13 wherein the superabsorbent material has a centrifuge retention capacity (CRC) as determined by a Centrifuge Retention Capacity Test of at least about 25 g/g.

18. (Original) A surface treated absorbent material as set forth in claim 13 wherein the cationic polymer is polyvinyl amine.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) A surface treated absorbent material as set forth in claim 13 wherein the superabsorbent material has a gel stiffness index of at least about 0.85.

21. (Original) A surface treated absorbent material as set forth in claim 13 wherein the surface treatment is applied to substantially the entire outer surface of the superabsorbent material.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) A surface treated absorbent material as set forth in claim 13 wherein the surface treatment further comprises in the range of about 0.5 to about 5 grams weight of water per 1 gram weight of superabsorbent material.

24. (Original) A surface treated absorbent material as set forth in claim 13 wherein the surface treated absorbent material has a free swell gel bed permeability as determined by a Free Swell Gel Bed Permeability Test of at least about  $2,000 \times 10^{-9} \text{ cm}^2$ .

25. (Original) A surface treated absorbent material as set forth in claim 24 wherein the surface treated absorbent material has a gel bed permeability (GBP) under load as determined by a Gel Bed Permeability Under Load Test of at least about  $200 \times 10^{-9} \text{ cm}^2$ .

Claims 26-39 (Canceled)

40. (Original) A surface treated absorbent material as set forth in claim 14 wherein the surface treated absorbent material has a gel bed permeability (GBP) under load as determined by the Gel Bed Permeability Under Load Test of at least about  $300 \times 10^9 \text{ cm}^2$ .